

Risk Assessment Matrix

Matrix below provides leaders a process to assess risk based on severity and probability of each hazard. The point where the severity row and probability column intersect defines the level of risk of a hazard. See reverse for "Risk Acceptance Authority Levels". Taking unnecessary risk is unacceptable.

Probability \ Severity		Frequent	Likely	Occasional	Seldom	Unlikely
		A	B	C	D	E
Catastrophic	I	E	E	H	H	M
Critical	II	E	H	H	M	L
Moderate	III	H	M	M	L	L
Negligible	IV	M	L	L	L	L

Definitions of Severity

- **Catastrophic:** Death or permanent total disability, system loss, major property damage
- **Critical:** Permanent partial disability, temporary total disability in excess of 3 months, major system damage, significant property damage
- **Moderate:** Minor injury lost workday accident, compensable injury or illness, minor system damage, minor property damage
- **Negligible:** First Aid or minor supportive medical treatment, minor system impairment

Definitions of Probability

- **Frequent:** Occurs often, continuously experienced
- **Likely:** Occurs several times
- **Occasional:** Occurs sporadically
- **Seldom:** Unlikely, but could occur at some time
- **Unlikely:** Can assume it will not occur

Definition of Risk Levels (combining severity and probability)

- **E = Extremely High:** Loss of ability to accomplish mission if hazards occur during mission
- **H = High:** Significant degradation of mission capabilities if hazards occur during mission
- **M = Moderate:** Minor injury, lost workday accident, compensable injury or illness, minor system damage, minor property damage
- **L = Low:** Little or no impact on mission accomplishment



USAG Benelux Leader's Guide To Composite Risk Management



WHAT IS COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT?

- Composite Risk management is a decision making process used to mitigate risks associated with all hazards that have the potential to injure or kill personnel, damage or destroy equipment, or otherwise impact mission effectiveness. The Focus is now on what can kill people today, enemy or accident?
- Focal point of USAG Benelux Commander's Safety philosophy and Strategic Safety Plan.
- Fundamentals captured in FM 5-19.
- Risks can be quantified and managed by determining the probability and severity of a potential loss due to a hazardous condition.
- Leaders are responsible and accountable for assessing their operation as a total system and ensuring that planning, risk management decisions, and execution proactively identifies hazards, assesses the associated risks, and identifies control measures necessary to reduce the risks to the level commensurate with their commander's intent.

COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WILL...

- Allow leaders to make informed decisions
- Provide Soldiers a mental process in making decisions that affect their day-to-day lives.

WHAT LEADERS CAN DO

- Ensure all leaders complete the Composite Risk Management Basic Course on-line (available on the Combat Readiness University, <https://safetylms.army.mil/librix/loginhtml2.asp?v=usasc>).
- Require senior leaders to mentor junior leaders in planning using their experiences in dealing with risks.

- Require planners/action officers to be familiar with the composite risk management process.
- Ensure composite risk assessments are an integral part of decision briefings, decision papers, and event IPR's.
- Require proponents of high risk programs to assess program documents and ensure the composite risk management process is embedded.

LEADERS SHOULD ASK...

- What are the Man, Machine, and Environment hazard factors of an operation?
- Can the hazards be eliminated?
- What are the risks if the hazards cannot be eliminated?
- How can the risks be minimized? Are there other safer options?
- Do the benefits outweigh the risks?
- Is the decision-making required at a higher level?

5-STEP PROCESS

- **Identify hazards to the force.** Consider all aspects of current and future situations, environment, and known historical problem areas.
- **Assess hazards to determine risks.** Assess the impact of each hazard in terms of potential loss and cost based on probability and severity.
- **Develop controls and make risk decisions.** Develop control measures that eliminate the hazard or reduce its risk. As control measures are developed, risk is re-evaluated until the residual risk is at a level where the benefits outweigh the costs.
- **Implement controls** that eliminate the hazard or reduce its risk.
- **Supervise and evaluate.** Enforce standards and controls. Evaluate the effectiveness of controls and adjust/update as necessary.

HELPFUL COMPOSITE RISK MANAGEMENT WEBSITES

- FM 5-19:
<https://cra.army.mil/riskmanagement/FM5-19.pdf>
- Combat Readiness Center:
<https://cra.army.mil/home/default.asp?#>
POV Risk Assessment Tool (ASMIS-2)
Driving/POV training resources
Composite Risk Management training
Soldier Training Support Package:
- USAG Benelux Installation Safety Office:
<http://www.usagbenelux.eur.army.mil/sites/installation/safetyinfo.asp>

Risk Acceptance Authority Levels:

Low & Moderate Risk: can be accepted by the Commander/Leader responsible for the operation/activity.

High Residual Risk: must be elevated to at least the Garrison Commander level depending on availability.

Extremely High Residual Risk: must be elevated to the first General Officer in the chain of command.